

Documents on Diplomacy: Exercises

What to Do with Jay??

DOCUMENT: WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH SPAIN?

1. James Monroe, a representative from Virginia to Congress, criticized Jay's negotiations with Spain. What were his concerns?
2. Why was he writing to Thomas Jefferson? [Jefferson lived in France from 1784-89, first as a commercial commissioner. IN May 1785, Jefferson succeeded Benjamin Franklin as the U.S. Minister to France.]

DOCUMENT: JAY HAS MANAGED THIS NEGOTIATION DISHONESTLY

1. What did Monroe see as ". . . an intrigue on foot. . . ?
2. What was the role of Congress at this point?
3. Evaluate Monroe's assessment of Gardoqui.
4. Did Monroe doubt Jay's loyalty to the United States? Support or disclaim your stand with quotes from the document.

DOCUMENT: EXCERPTS FROM JOHN JAY'S REPORT TO CONGRESS

1. Determine Jay's purpose in submitting this report.
2. Why did Jay consider Spain a valuable ally?
3. Describe the potential economic reciprocity between Spain and the United States?
4. Identify the two obstacles that Jay saw as divisive.
5. Describe the obstacle of trade on the Mississippi. Why was this opposed by Spain?
6. What argument did Jay use to counter Gardoqui's refusal to open the Mississippi to American use?
7. Jay conceded the use of the Mississippi. What were his reasons?
8. Establish Jay's stand regarding boundary issues (territorial limits) with Spain.

DOCUMENT: NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN SUSPENDED

1. Why was Jay suspending the negotiations?
2. What was the tone of his message to Gardoqui?